



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY241261
Inspection date	20 May 2005
Inspector	Angela Rowley

Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2002. She lives with her partner and her four year old son in a terraced property in Bickershaw, Wigan. There are shops, schools and local amenities nearby. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear yard available for some outdoor play.

The childminder is an approved member of the National Child Minding Association. She is a member of a local childminding group and co-ordinator of the local toy library. She is registered to care for five children and is currently minding six children aged under eight all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The promotion of healthy eating is given high priority and ensures that children are well nourished. Children learn about 'good' foods through focussed activities and participation in key events such as National Smile week. Menu's are well planned and reflect healthy choices, and children independently access drinks which helps them become aware of and meet their own needs. Mealtimes are effectively organised so that they are a pleasant social occasion where children dine together at the table. Babies learn to use their own cutlery and pre- school children operate completely independently for example pouring their own drinks.

Children discover and learn about their own bodies through well planned experiences. They grow cress using their senses to smell and touch the seeds on moistened pads, talking about what the seeds and they themselves need in order to grow.

Children learn about positive hygiene because they are cared for in a warm clean home where consistent routines promote cleanliness, for example, pre-school children independently go to wash their hands before lunch. The childminder has implemented effective procedures which prevent the spread of infection such as the use of anti-bacterial wipes after nappy changing, and the use of individual paper towels for hand drying.

Children's physical development is satisfactorily promoted. They are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs and receive opportunities to practice large motor skills through visits to toddler group and during many planned outings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimized because the childminder takes effective safety precautions and helps children learn safe practices. She has assessed potential hazards within her home and put measures in place to reduce all identified risks, and because they are in a safe, well maintained environment, children are able to move around freely and access safe equipment.

Children learn about safe practices through projects that are well planned and informed. They have learned about road safety and received information from the road safety unit. Through this the children have learned to stand clear of the kerb and know the meaning of some road signs. Children also know what to do in the event of a fire in the childminders home because they practice drills regularly.

Children are well protected. The childminder is clear about her responsibilities in relation to child protection. She has a child protection policy displayed, has an appropriate recording system in place and is aware of relevant reporting procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy in the childminders care because she invests time in building close relationships through play and the provision of fun, purposeful activities . Children play harmoniously together and instigate the childminders involvement in their imaginative play. Older children comment about having fun and their enjoyment at making things. Such activities develop their creativity and imaginative skills.

The provision of a stimulating environment is good. The childminder plans themes which enables children to receive a wide range of focused activities. This broadens their experiences and helps them learn and develop. Themes are broadly linked to the foundation stage activities implemented at the pre-school group used and this helps reinforce older children's learning, although the planning of activities could be further developed to take into account the developmental needs of under threes.

Children learn about the world in which they live through regular outings and visits to places of interest such as the library, children's farm and country park, and the skilful planning of books extends children's learning linked to the theme. Children learn about the use of writing as a means of communication and even very young children experience mark making as they access drawing materials regularly and see the childminder write their names and label displayed artwork.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the positive relationships developed between the childminder and their parents. Effective procedures are implemented to facilitate the sharing of information such as the provision of a parents pack which contains details of the childminders service. A 'settling in' process is used positively to help establish relationships and elicit any required information which is needed to meet children's individual needs.

Children's behaviour is good because the childminder sets clear expectations in the form of displayed 'golden rules' and she uses clear explanations to help children understand what isn't acceptable and why. They respond happily to words of praise and encouragement such as 'excellent' and 'brilliant' which promotes their confidence and self esteem.

All children are valued as individuals. Effective planning takes into account children's patterns of attendance and ensures they receive equal opportunities to participate in key activities. Children learn about themselves by being able to make choices and express preferences in their toys and at mealtimes. They receive some opportunities to increase their awareness of the wider community.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare and their development are promoted in this setting because the childminder is committed to regularly updating her knowledge of early years issues. She effectively reflects upon and improves her practices as a result. Children benefit from the childminders involvement in a local childminding group where she is able to keep abreast of childminding issues and where they receive a broader range of activities and social experiences.

Children are at ease and feel welcome because the environment is very child centred and inviting. Space is effectively organised, children's artwork and photographs are displayed and a selection of toys are attractively presented to encourage children to become engaged in play as soon as they arrive.

All required documentation is appropriately maintained and very effectively organised which ensures that the provision is well managed. with only one omission highlighted in relation to seeking emergency treatment for children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At her last inspection one recommendation was raised in relation to recording the hours of children's attendance. The childminder has improved her practice and now records actual times of arrival and departure which ensures that the provision is safely and effectively managed.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- request written parental permission to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment

- ensure that the planning of activities reflects the developmental needs of younger children for example by using the Birth to three framework

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk